

Bluford
Kids

WEBBER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL



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BK NEWS



30 JANUARY 2016 - BOYD, IL
Pamela Kirkpatrick
class of 65

Week #5 - we're moving right along. Well . . . Dee Lortie must have been on my mind for a reason when I spoke of her in the last newsletter . . . so glad you are ok, Dee. And Patsy, my beautiful cousin, thank you for the photo and your kind words. Notice the bows in my aunt's hair . . . seems they are back in style today which is just weird. :-)

And thanks Jerry Wilson, for sending your information . . . I should be able to build an updated alumni list if everyone cooperates. I have had several requests for the Dropbox link to download past BK Newsletters. So good to hear from Cheryl Minor . . . she responded to the News on Facebook and I wanted to share with non FB alumni. Pope County Illinois, a beautiful part of Illinois.

February Birthdays . . . Patsy sent some of the names from when she did the News but there have been many additions and deletions so I'm sure it's not completely accurate. . . thanks Patsy!

I apologize for all the photos containing my family members . . . I told you in the beginning if I didn't hear from enough people for the newsletter, this is what would happen. :-) I welcome your photos, especially the early ones.

Hello February . . . a conundrum wrapped in a paradox . . . the shortest month and the longest month. . . 28 (29) days that last forever.

Pam

PS

My apologies to Janice Weidner for omitting her article yesterday.

That's what happens when I hurry. I was trying to get things done so I could go play with my friends and in doing so I overlooked her email. That is easy for me to do since I receive between 75-100 every day (doesn't include the spam mail) - no excuse. I wish I received more BK News and less junk mail! Please let me know if you submit something and don't see it in the next newsletter.

24 JANUARY 2016 • ARIZONA

Janice Ashby Weidner

You do such a good job with the BK News Pam, thank-you for the time you take doing this !

I just read the latest BK news ,and I need to tell Vincent York about something he mentioned in the BK NEWS. (I do not have his personal email address at present, and thought he and the rest of the BKs would find it interesting.)

Vincent mentioned Rosier Russell's house across from the High School and its destruction by several huge hickory trees one summer day in the 1950's. On that day, their house was 'declared the worst damaged house in Jefferson County' as a result of the big wind storm that passed through the southern Illinois area. The Mt. Vernon Newspaper photographers were snapping pictures all over the yard that day – I remember them standing on the huge tree roots . Uncle Rosier's bed was pounded in the ground from a limb falling into the middle of it. Other photos were taken of the kitchen and his brand new bathroom. It had just been finished and now was destroyed.

I was at the Russell's that day in the storm, how we happened to be in another house other than ours, I'm not sure. I believe Grama Brown needed company and during the storm we ran to the Russell's.

I remember sitting on Rosier's lap in the living room. We sat in the rocking chair and watched the power lines across the street in the High School parking lot. I can still see the electrical lines swaying in the strong wind then snapping - causing sparks to fly! I was in shock at my young age, maybe 5 years old, witnessing the destruction!

The ball lightning that Vincent referred to hit the Russell's house two months after this storm! Rosier and Grace had miserable luck that summer. Vincent and I were both witnesses to the damage wind storms can do that summer of 1950.

Janice



February Humor from the Farmer's Almanac



*"Groundhog found fog. New snows and blue toes.
Fine and dandy for Valentine candy. Snow spittin';
if you're not mitten-smitten, you'll be frostbitten!
By jing-y feels spring-y."*



25 JANUARY 2016 - BETHALTO, IL

Patsy Huff Goss

Class of 1950

Sure enjoyed the Newsletter this morning. It just keeps getting better and better. Good to hear from Vincent York as he's long overdue. I know Vic Stover is proud of his two sons as any father would be. And Jerry

Wilson's articles are always interesting. I especially enjoyed Dick Porter's article on artifacts as my husband had an uncle who was into collecting them from around our area. In fact, I understand that his collection is housed in the Kansas City Museum. And Pam your editorials add so much to the Newsletter. You are certainly a keeper.

I have been busy trying to keep up with a heat pump that was not keeping me warm during the extra cold winter and a car that had a check engine message that wouldn't go off. The man who put in the heat pump had been out here several times and couldn't get to the root of the problem. I remembered that I had taken out appliance insurance years ago. So I called the company and they sent a company out that not only remedied the situation but it didn't cost me a dime. My Grandson took care of my car problem by putting in a new thermostat. Life is good!!

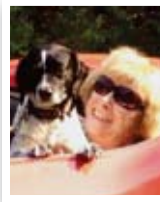
Here is a picture I found and I was wondering if you had a copy. You probably do but it looks like Opal, Helen, and your Dad as kids.

Keep up the good work. Looking forward to the next issue of the Newsletter.

Patsy



Opal Alene, Melvin Alvin (Dutch) and Helen Marie Kirkpatrick, approx. 1917



25 JANUARY 2016 - NEW JERSEY

Dee Lortie (aka, Doris Earls)

Class of 1952

It's day two after the blizzard of 2016 that left some places here in the northeast with two to three feet of snow. I was one of those lucky ones.

I still haven't ventured out as my long driveway was just cleared a couple of hours ago. I had a tractor and two pickup trucks with snow plows attached that couldn't make the driveway, got stuck, batteries went dead, whatever. The worse moment for me was yesterday when I ventured out the front door to move snow off the one step I have. Could barely open the front door because of the drifting, but I did, and shovel in hand began a few swipes on the snow. I needed to go back into the house for something and discovered the door had locked. Good news - back door was not locked. Bad news - I had to make my way around the house to the back door. Oh yes, there's that front door key I have hidden for emergencies. I made my way through the drifting snow to find the key, made my way back to the front door, put the key into the lock, and zippo, it didn't work. Tried and tried, but couldn't get the key to work. Correct key, just very difficult to use as the one key unlocks the two locks that are installed. It always was difficult to work but I could do it. Now I can't. So, I "swam" my way through the snow, around the house, had to open the garden gate which was securely attached and wouldn't bulge because of the drifting snow on the other side. Picture me leaning over the gate and trying to get the snow out of the way. Did so, now on to the patio where the blizzard had really made large drifts right up onto the sliding door. I was never so relieved as when that slider did its job and slide open and I was inside. I had visions of me falling in the snow and unable to move, no one would find me, or even look for me, for days. No one could get up the driveway to the house in the first place. All these visions went through my head. So, what's the moral to this story? You can always learn something from your mistakes. Yes, I did check the door handle before I closed that door - something I just do automatically. What I had forgotten was even though the knob would move and give you the impression of being unlocked, you have to push that little metal lock in to have the door unlocked. I hadn't done that. Someone told me today I should never go outside without my cell phone. Well, that wouldn't have saved the day yesterday when the entire area was trying to get itself unburied from the blizzard and whoever I called would not have been able to get to the house. My nearest neighbor who always bails me out was away skiing. So, I guess the moral of the story is for me to stay indoors, regardless, when there's 3 feet of snow. Oh yeah, get the lock to the front door changed. Don't like playing Russian roulette with the key - maybe it'll open, maybe it won't.

Dee

Lucille Ball



Lookin' for
BKNEWS
pamelakirk@frontiernet.net

Posting the picture of Opal Friend stirred up memories for Cheryl Minor Underwood. I recall tagging along with Aunt Opal on one of their trips to Pope County with Cheryl's mom and dad, Doris and Wendall - great people. I'm attaching a photo which show's Chery's dad, 2nd from right. . . I know it was a day spent fishing in some creek, but not sure just where. Lots of familiar faces in this excellent photo.



27 JANUARY 2016 • FREDRICKTOWN, MO

Cheryl Minor Underwood

class of '72

Pam, loved to see picture of Opal in front of the Cave, along with the stories of "the good ol days". Sam and Opal [Friend] were in our lives every week and many weekends for as long as I can remember. So many wonderful memories. Loved to visit Golconda and the Cave. I could write a book about my childhood.

All thru the 60's, especially on weekends, we'd go visit my Dad's dad who lived on an 80 acre farm near Golconda. Sam and Opal made many trips with us to Pope County!!! No running water, one lite bulb hanging from the ceiling the kitchen living room and one bedroom was the main room of the old two story house. Always had deer meat to eat, a huge round roll block of cheese. What I would give to be able to relive just one more weekend there. You have no idea how wonderful it was to swing on a cable flying over Coal Bank Holler, swimming and camping on Lusk Creek. Mom saw a black Panther on the roof of the out house one evening about dusk. Rattlesnakes and Copperhead were everywhere!!!!

The old Model T!!!! It had a crank start . . . Dad was good at getting it started. One day Mom, Marty, and I took off walking from the farm to Lusk Creek to meet up with Dad who was camping in the bus and fishing. We walked mostly along the creek where there was a lot of flat blue slate rocks and small holes of water. We heard rattle snakes off and on all the way. Mom just said, "keep on walking kids." I never saw any of them just heard the rattles. . . things a person never forgets - I could go on and on.

We were very blessed to be able to enjoy these days. So glad you posted the picture of Opal. I sure miss them all!!!

Cheryl



L-R: Tom Clark, Vern Johnson, Sam Friend, Johnny Kovach, Wendall Minor and Buster King.



This is the only picture I could find of Doris and Wendall . . . not sure what the occasion was but they were all dressed to kill! It's definitely not Cave-in-Rock.

Back row, l-r: Dutch Kirkpatrick, Dale Hale, Opal Kirkpatrick, Sam Friend, Ruby Hale. Seated on floor, l-r: Doris and Wendall Minor and Opal Friend.

Happy Birthday

February BK Birthdays



Following is a partial list of birthdays, - Would appreciate everyone's help in getting it up-to-date. Thanks!

1 st	Fern Gutzler	8 th	Charlotte Breeze	20 th	Karen Hales
2 nd	Wilma Cameron Dobsch	8 th	Rhonda Gregory Wooden	23 th	Phyllis Morgan
3 rd	Susan Young	16 th	Ruby Goldman	24 th	Gladys Dean
4 th	Jerry Pepple	18 th	Jack White	28 th	Norma (Wilson) Shreve
7 th	Butch Gregory				

Happy Anniversary to . . . 6th Charles and Liz (Bell) Cook